

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP

the voice of rural wireless telecommunications providers

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RECEIVED

OCT - 6 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 6, 1997

William F. Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

ATTENTION: ASTRID CARLSON (HAND DELIVERED)

**RE: RURAL TASK FORCE NOMINATION
PUBLIC NOTICE - FCC 97J-1, CC DOCKET 96-45**

Dear Mr. Caton:

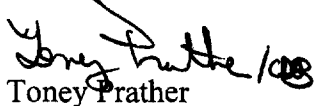
The Rural Telecommunications Group (RTG) hereby nominates Mr. John E. Smith, Vice President and General Manager of Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative and Leaco Cellular, Inc. (Leaco) for a Category 1¹ position on the Rural Task Force (RTF). RTG is a group of over sixty concerned rural telecommunications companies who have joined together to promote the efforts of its member companies to speed the delivery of new, efficient and innovative telecommunications technologies to the populations of remote and underserved sections of the country. RTG's members have participated in numerous spectrum auctions and are dedicated to providing the latest wireless services to *all* rural customers.

As the general manager of Leaco, a rural cellular company that is a managing partner of the N.M. RSA 6-III Partnership, Mr. Smith has demonstrated a keen understanding of the unique demographic and economic concerns inherent to sparsely populated rural regions. If selected, Mr. Smith would be able to provide valuable insight into future, lower cost, wireless universal service solutions. As his resume illustrates, Mr. Smith has previously worked with the federal government and his state government regarding universal service initiatives. Mr. Smith has

¹ Although John Smith has an ILEC background (which is why RTG has nominated Mr. Smith for a Category 1 position), he represents the rural wireless point of view which could fall under Category 7. The category Mr. Smith is classified under is certainly less important than having a wireless universal service point of view on the RTF.

genuine "hands-on" experience with the technology needed to make telecommunications service in the remote and extreme conditions of New Mexico a reality. As a pioneer in rural cellular service, Mr. Smith has witnessed the increasingly favorable economic forecast for rural wireless solutions. RTG firmly believes that John Smith can provide the forward-looking wireless perspective that the Joint Board is seeking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toney Prather", followed by a date "1/08".

Toney Prather
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Rural Telecommunications Group

John E. Smith
Executive Vice President and General Manager
Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative
Leaco Cellular, Inc.

1989 - Present

Executive Vice President and General Manager, Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative and Leaco Cellular, Inc.

- Administers policies of the Board of Directors, including carrying out approved strategic planning, annual budget, annual work plan, and capital requirements of the cooperative.
- Oversees technology investments, financial sources, cash flows, and other fiscal developments.
- Represents the cooperative before federal and state regulatory agencies, legislative bodies, and industry associations.
- Provided testimony to the National Telecommunications Information Administration regarding the Universal Service Fund rewrite.
- Provided testimony to New Mexico State Corporation Commission on numerous regulatory issues.

1987 - 1989

Assistant Manager, Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative and Leaco Cellular, Inc.

- Prepared short and long range budget and work plans.
- Prepared annual reports to regulatory bodies.
- Developed training programs.

1983 - 1987

Plant Superintendent, Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative and Leaco Cellular, Inc.

- Responsible for installation of all outside plant and central office equipment.
- Controlled work orders to ensure compliance with Rural Utilities Service specifications.

1966 - 1983

Lineman / Line Foreman, Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative and Leaco Cellular, Inc.

- Installed and repaired all outside plant and central office equipment.
- Developed long range planning for all outside plant activity.

Professional Memberships

- Board of Directors, Arizona New Mexico Telephone Association (ANMTA)
- Board of Directors, New Mexico Exchange Carrier Association (NMECA)
- National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) Wireless Committee
- NTCA Marketing Committee
- Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA)

Professional Training and Education

- New Mexico Contractor's License
- Motorola IMTS Pulsar Terminal
- GTE PCM Carrier Systems
- NTI DMS-10 System Maintenance
- FCC Tariff Application
- Separations and Settlements
- NECA Access Rate Application
- NTCA "Excellence in Leadership" Award
- Graduate, Tatum High School, Tatum, New Mexico

Certificate of Service

I, Jacqueline Jenkins, an employee in the law firm of Bennet & Bennet, PLLC, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has been served via first-class postage pre-paid mail on the following this 6th day of October 1997:

The Honorable Julia Johnson, State Chair
Chairman
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Gerald Gunter Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

The Honorable David Baker
Commissioner
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

The Honorable Laska Schoenfelder
Commissioner
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

The Honorable Martha S. Hogerty
Public Counsel
Missouri Office of Public Counsel
301 West High Street, Suite 250
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Charles Bolle
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Bridget Duff, State Staff Chair
Florida Public Service Commission
2450 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0866

Phillip F. McClelland
Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate
1425 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

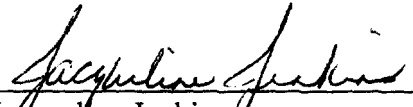
Tiane Sommer
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

Sheryl Todd (plus 8 copies)
Federal Communications Commission
Accounting and Audits Division
Universal Service Branch
2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8611
Washington, D.C. 20554

Rowland Curry
Texas Public Utility Commission
1701 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78701

Ann Dean
Maryland Public Service Commission
16th Floor, 6 Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

Astrid Carlson
(HAND DELIVERED)
Federal Communications Commission
2100 M Street, N.W.
8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20554


Jacqueline Jenkins